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THE HONOURABLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Guo-Qiang Q. WANG, and Kent E. FELSKE

For: WAVELENGTH ACCESS SERVER (WAS) ARCHITECTURE

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 3 sheet(s) of drawing(s).  
☒ An assignment of the inventor(s) to NORTEL NETWORKS LIMITED  
☐ A certified copy of a \_\_\_\_\_ application.  
☒ Declaration and power of attorney.  
☐ Verified statement(s) to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.  
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INDEP. CLAIMS	7 - 3 = 4	4	x 39		OR	4 x 78	\$312.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED			x 130		OR	x 260	
ASSIGNMENT(S) RECORDATION FEE(S)			x 40			1 x 40	\$40.00
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
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Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald D. Faggetter  
Registration No. 33,345

SMART & BIGGAR  
438 University Avenue  
Suite 1500, Box 111  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M5G 2K8  
Telephone: (416) 593-5514  
Facsimile: (416) 591-1690

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APPLICATION  
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TITLE:           WAVELENGTH ACCESS SERVER  
                  (WAS) ARCHITECTURE

APPLICANT:     Guo-Qiang Q. WANG and Kent E. Felske

## WAVELENGTH ACCESS SERVER (WAS) ARCHITECTURE

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to communication between optical transport networks and service networks, more particularly, the present invention relates to a wavelength access  
5 server (WAS) architecture.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In networking for data communication, different protocols are used to communicate for different purposes. In other words, networks using different data communication protocols are used to provide users of these networks with different services. A service  
10 network using a particular data communication protocol may be chosen for an ability of the protocol to optimize a particular parameter such as cost, delay or bandwidth. The Internet Protocol (IP) is one of the best known of these data communication protocols. Other data communication protocols include Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Synchronous Optical Network (SONET), Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH), Gigabit Ethernet, Fiber-  
15 Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) and Enterprise Systems Connection (ESCON).

Often, service networks that are separated geographically communicate over transport networks. Increasing need for capacity in transport networks is, to a large extent, being met  
by communication links over which communication is accomplished by modulating an optical signal, such as a beam of light, to represent binary coded data. To make efficient use  
20 of an optical medium (such as glass fiber), many unique data signals may be transmitted over the same optical medium so long as each data signal modulates an optical signal with a wavelength different from the other optical signals on the same medium. When the wavelengths of the different optical signals are only marginally different from one another, the transmission scheme may be called Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM).  
25 In a network using DWDM, two elements connected by a single physical link (optical fiber) may communicate using a number of optical signals, each with a distinct wavelength. Each optical signal may be called a wavelength channel and have qualities normally associated with a entire link between elements, such as bandwidth and delay.

Advances in the area of optical transport networks have resulted in optical transport  
30 network-specific protocols for use to establish, reconfigure and dynamically provision

resources within an optical transport network (See "Scaling Optical Data Networks with Wavelength Routing - A White Paper," Monterey Networks, 1999, hereby incorporated herein by reference).

Although provisioning, or "access control," of resources in a transport network can be dynamic from the perspective of a element of the transport network, current access control of resources in a transport network from the perspective of a service network node (such as an ATM switch) is essentially static. At best, service network node access control can take the form of a point-and-click operation whereby a network management node controls both a service network node and a transport network element. At worst, the access control can be a slow and painstaking operation that requires redesigning a portion of the optical transport network.

A service network node designated for connection to optical transport network equipment may be termed transport access customer premise equipment (CPE). Due to distance limitations of connections between a transport access CPE and an optical transport network element, there is a requirement for the transport access CPE to be co-located with the optical transport network element. Often, the optical transport network element is chosen for functions specific to the service of the service network node as well as transport network specific functions. A change in the protocol of the service network may therefore require a change of the transport network element. Further, improvements to the connection of the transport network element to the rest of the optical transport network, for instance, provision of additional wavelength channels, may require an update to the static access control.

Even if a service network node could be provided with a capability to dynamically provision resources in an optical transport network, it may be costly or inconvenient to update the operational capability of transport access CPE. Further, as in the case of a service provider, there may be a requirement to grant transport network access to more than one service network, where the service networks use a variety of data communication protocols.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, access control is removed from the function list of optical transport network equipment and given to a wavelength access server. The data communication protocol in use by a transport access CPE is then transparent to the transport

network element. Further, resources within the optical transport network may be provisioned dynamically by the wavelength access server. Advantageously, the wavelength access server may support transmission from a variety of transport access CPE using a variety of different data communication protocols.

5 In accordance with an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of operating a data communication apparatus including, at each of a plurality of service specific transceivers, receiving a plurality of input signals from a given plurality of data communications devices operating with a given data communication protocol, aggregating each of said received plurality of input signals to result in a given service specific electrical  
10 signal and transmitting said given service specific electrical signal to a wavelength access controller. The method further includes, at said wavelength access controller, receiving a plurality of service specific electrical signals from a plurality of service specific transceivers, at least two of said service specific transceivers operating with different data communication protocols, converting said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a corresponding  
15 plurality of service specific optical signals, wavelength division multiplexing said plurality of service specific optical signals to result in a wavelength division multiplexed signal and transmitting said wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical conductor to an element of an optical transport network. In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a data communication apparatus including service specific transceivers for carrying  
20 out transceiver specific steps of this method and a wavelength access controller for carrying out wavelength access specific steps of this method.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer readable medium for providing program control for a wavelength access controller in a wavelength access server, where said wavelength access server is communicatively  
25 coupled to both a plurality of service specific data communications devices and an element of an optical transport network, and said wavelength access controller is communicatively coupled to a plurality of service specific transceivers. The computer readable medium adapts the wavelength access controller to be operable to classify a service specific electrical signal from each of said plurality of service specific transceivers, maintain a database of information  
30 relating to resources in said optical transport network, receive a connection request, from one of said plurality of service specific transceivers, for a path through said transport network, determine, based on said information in said database, a path through said transport network

corresponding to said connection request and signal said element of said optical transport network to set up said determined path through said transport network.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of operating a data communication apparatus including, at a wavelength access controller, receiving a wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical conductor from an element of an optical transport network, wavelength division de-multiplexing said wavelength division multiplexed signal to result in a plurality of service specific optical signals, converting said plurality of service specific optical signals to a corresponding plurality of service specific electrical signals, determining which of a plurality of service specific transceivers correspond to each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals and transmitting each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a determined corresponding service specific transceiver. The method also includes, at each of said plurality of service specific transceivers, receiving a given service specific electrical signal from said wavelength access controller, segmenting said given service specific electrical signal to result in a plurality of output signals and transmitting each of said plurality of output signals to a corresponding data communications device. In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a data communication apparatus including a wavelength access controller for carrying out wavelength access specific steps of this method and a service specific transceiver for carrying out transceiver specific steps of this method.

Other aspects and features of the present invention will become apparent to those ordinarily skilled in the art upon review of the following description of specific embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the figures which illustrate example embodiments of this invention:

FIG. 1 is a schematic network of optical transport network elements representing a communications network;

FIG. 2 illustrates a wavelength access server for use in connecting to the network of FIG. 1 in an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 3 illustrates a service specific transceiver for use in the wavelength access server of FIG. 2 in an embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 illustrates a network architecture suitable for use with the present invention.

An exemplary optical transport network **100** is modeled as a graph of optical transport network elements **110** and DWDM links **134** between the optical transport network elements **110**. A number of transport access CPEs (service network nodes) **102** are connected to a local wavelength access server **120A** for setting up paths through optical transport network **100**. Specifically, an IP router **102E**, a local gigabit Ethernet router **102F**, an ATM switch **102G** and a SONET switch **102H** connect to the local wavelength access server **120A** over service specific links **104E**, **104F**, **104G** and **104H** respectively. The local wavelength access server **120A** connects to the optical transport network **100** via a DWDM link **130A**. Further, a remote gigabit Ethernet router **102X** is connected over an Ethernet link **104X** to a remote wavelength access server **120C** and subsequently over a DWDM link **130C** to the optical transport network **100**.

Each DWDM link **130**, **134** can support a number of wavelength channels. Since, even within different service types (IP, Ethernet, ATM, SONET, etc.), there may be different service categories (for IP telephony, virtual private networks, etc.) with different quality of service (QoS) requirements (cost, delay, bandwidth, etc.), wavelength channels within optical transport network **100** may be configured to carry specific service categories.

As shown in FIG. 2, the wavelength access server **120** comprises a wavelength access controller **204** in communication with a number of service specific transceivers **228J**, **228K**, **228L**, **228M** and **228N** that send and receive data over service specific links to service network nodes **102** (not shown). The wavelength access controller **204** comprises a memory **210** and a processor **208** loaded with data communication apparatus operating software for executing the method of this invention from a software medium **212**. The software medium **212** could be a disk, a tape, a chip or a random access memory containing a file downloaded from a remote source. The wavelength access controller **204** is also in bi-directional optical communication with the optical transport network element **110** (not shown) over a DWDM link **130**.



An exemplary configuration of a service specific transceiver **228** is shown in FIG. 3. The transceiver **228** communicates with service network nodes **102** (not shown) via input/output (I/O) ports **340P**, **340Q**, **340R**, **340S** and **340T**. Each I/O port **340** is in turn in communication with a service specific multiplexer-demultiplexer **342** that is in bi-directional electrical communication with the wavelength access controller **204** (FIG. 2).

In operation, within the local wavelength access server **120A** a connection request may be communicated from a service specific transceiver **228** to the wavelength access controller **204** to request a path, for an aggregated traffic stream, to a service network node associated with the remote wavelength access server **120C**. At the wavelength access controller **204**, an optimal path through the optical transport network **100** to the remote wavelength access server **120C** is determined. Wavelength channels along the determined path may then be provisioned through communication between the wavelength access controller **204** and the optical transport network element **110A** and further communication from the optical transport network element **110A** to the rest of the optical transport network **100**. At the remote wavelength access server **120C**, the aggregated traffic stream from the local wavelength access server **120A** must be segmented such that traffic, specific to the service network node associated with the remote wavelength access server **120C**, may be appropriately directed.

Communication between the local wavelength access server **120A** and the optical transport network element **110A** may involve the passing of messages indicating the requirements of the requested path. Further, return messages may indicate, to the local wavelength access server **120A**, the success or failure of an attempt, by the optical transport network element **110A**, to fulfil the request. A "Set-up-connection" message for this use has been defined in U.S. Patent Application No. [attorney docket no. 91436-250] as part of a larger set of messages called the Optical Bandwidth Control Protocol, or OBCP. Such a Set-up-connection message may include such parameters as "Request-ID" to differentiate the request from other requests and "Service-type" to specify, for instance, IP traffic or ATM traffic. The Set-up-connection message may also include parameters to indicate various requirements of the connection request such as "Bandwidth", "Traffic-engineering-parameters" and "Protection-priority". Finally, a "Hop-list" parameter allows the wavelength access server **120** to specify the path it has determined through the optical transport network **100**.

Similar to the communication between the local wavelength access server **120A** and the optical transport network element **110A** outlined above, the communication between the service specific transceivers **228** and the wavelength access controller **204** may involve the passing of messages such as those that indicate requirements of a path through the optical transport network **100**. Such intra-wavelength access server communication may include an exchange of messages for interface configuration and cross-connect provisioning.

In general, to effectively provide wavelength paths through an optical transport network **100** to a plurality of nodes in service networks using different protocols, a wavelength access server is required to perform the following functions: service traffic adaptation; traffic aggregation and segmentation; traffic classifying; optical inter-working; and system management.

Service traffic adaptation relates to adapting a service specific signal received from a service network node **102** to a signal that may be processed within the wavelength access server **120** for transmitting over the optical transport network **100**. Service specific signals may include ATM, SONET, Gigabit Ethernet, IP router, FDDI, ESCON. Service traffic adaptation is performed in the wavelength access server **120** by the service specific transceiver **228** and, if the service specific signal is in an optical format, may include optical to electrical conversion at the I/O port **340**. Traffic aggregation and segmentation is performed within the service specific transceiver **228** at the service specific multiplexer-demultiplexer **342**. In the case of IP, traffic aggregation may simply involve interleaving of packets from the various I/O ports **340**. However, in the case of SONET, traffic aggregation involves established SONET multiplexing techniques. For instance, four OC-12 (SONET Optical Carrier 12) signals may be multiplexed into a single OC-48 signal using established SONET multiplexing techniques.

Traffic classifying, performed at the wavelength access controller **204**, determines a class of traffic received from a particular service specific transceiver **228**. As will be known to a person skilled in the art, traffic is typically classified through a range from "mission critical" to "best effort". The class of traffic received from a particular service specific transceiver **228** may be based on a pre-arranged correlation between the particular service specific transceiver **228** and the traffic class as maintained at the wavelength access server

**120.** The class of a particular aggregated stream of traffic has an effect on the level of protection requested for that aggregated traffic stream in the optical transport network **100**.

The optical inter-working function is performed at the wavelength access controller

**204.** Essentially, optical inter-working relates to converting (or mapping) the service specific electrical signals into corresponding service specific optical signals for transmission over wavelength channels in a DWDM link. The optical inter-working function may include a capability to add a “digital wrapper” to each service specific optical signal. Such a digital wrapper can add per-wavelength performance monitoring and error correction features to the service specific optical signal. The digital wrapper may take the form of a header similar to that used in SONET. For an example suitable digital wrapper, consider transmission of a 10 Gigabit Ethernet signal as payload in an OC-192 SONET signal. WaveWrapper™ technology, as defined by Lucent Technologies, provides a second example.

The system management function is performed at the wavelength access controller

**204** in conjunction with the traffic classifying function and the optical inter-working function.

System management includes aspects such as signaling, connection management, resource co-ordination, protection prioritization and access policy management.

Signaling refers to the exchange of messages on the link between the wavelength access server **120** and the optical transport network element **110**. The message exchange relates primarily to aspects of system management hereinafter discussed.

The connection management aspect of system management relates to the communication between the wavelength access server **120** and the optical transport network element **110** to establish, reconfigure and dynamically provision wavelength channels forming paths through the optical transport network **100**. The requesting of a specific path through the optical transport network **100** is made possible by the knowledge, at the wavelength access server **120**, of the resources available in the optical transport network **100**.

The aspect of system management called resource co-ordination relates to the maintenance of a database of the topology of the optical transport network **100**, that includes such resource availability information. This database is kept current through the receipt, from each optical transport network element **110**, of “Resource Link State Advertisements” as described in the afore referenced patent application.

When a path through the optical transport network **100** is established in response to a connection request, an alternate path to the same destination may also be established. These alternate paths provide an aspect of system management called "protection", in that, in case of a failure in a primary path, an alternate path may be activated. It may further be the case that two traffic streams are connected over two different paths through the optical transport network **100** to the same destination. Protection prioritization provides an aspect of system management through which a low priority traffic stream that is using a path to the same destination as that of a high priority traffic stream may lose access to the path so that the higher priority traffic stream may continue a connection after a failure in the primary path of the higher priority traffic stream.

Where a service provider provides access to the optical transport network **100**, an agreement may be in place with customers of the service provider guaranteeing that the provided service have particular qualities, such as minimum bandwidth or maximum delay. "Access policy management" is the aspect of system management responsible for maintaining these qualities. A particular access policy may be associated with each service (and therefore with each service specific transceiver **228**) according to configuration parameters maintained by the wavelength access controller **204**.

By way of example, consider a wavelength access server **120** supporting ten 1-Gigabit Ethernet traffic streams (from the local gigabit Ethernet router **102F** and nine other gigabit Ethernet routers) and four OC-48 traffic streams (from the SONET switch **102H** and three other SONET switches). In this regard, note that OC-48 is an optical carrier (OC) level, used in SONET, that allows data transmission at 2488.32 Mbps (megabits per second). The "48" represents a multiple of a basic optical carrier rate, OC-1, that allows data transmission at 51.84 Mbps. At a first transceiver, say transceiver **228J**, the ten 1-Gigabit Ethernet traffic streams may be aggregated into a single 10-Gigabit Ethernet traffic stream at an Ethernet specific multiplexer-demultiplexer that is part of transceiver **228J**. The 10-Gigabit Ethernet traffic stream may then be electrically transmitted to the wavelength access controller **204**. At a second transceiver, say transceiver **228K**, the four OC-48 streams may be aggregated into a single OC-192 stream at a SONET specific multiplexer-demultiplexer that is part of transceiver **228K**. The aggregated stream may then be electrically transmitted to the wavelength access controller **204**.

At the wavelength access controller **204**, the two aggregated traffic streams are classified and then allocated a wavelength in the DWDM link **130A** to optical transport network element **110A**. A path through the optical transport network **100** is determined by the wavelength access controller **204** on behalf of each aggregated traffic stream. If, for example, the destination for the Ethernet traffic is the remote gigabit Ethernet router **102X**, the wavelength access controller **204** may determine that a path including DWDM links **134AB**, **134BD** and **134DC** serves the requirements of the Ethernet traffic stream for bandwidth and delay. Another (most likely different) path is determined for the SONET traffic. The optical transport network element **110** is then instructed by the wavelength access controller **204**, through the use of a protocol such as OBCP, to set up the path determined for the Ethernet traffic as well as a path (likely to have a different destination) for the SONET traffic. Once a response is received from the optical transport network element **110A** indicating that the paths have been established, transmission of the traffic may begin.

At the receiving end of the Ethernet traffic, the remote wavelength access server **120C** receives a wavelength division multiplexed signal over the DWDM link **130C** from the optical transport network element **110C**. The wavelength division multiplexed signal is subsequently de-multiplexed and the resulting Ethernet specific optical signal is converted to an Ethernet specific electrical signal. A wavelength access controller determines an appropriate transceiver to pass the Ethernet specific electrical signal, perhaps through use of a digital wrapper as previously discussed. The Ethernet specific electrical signal is then transmitted to the appropriate transceiver. The Ethernet specific transceiver receives the Ethernet specific electrical signal and segments the 10-Gigabit Ethernet signal into its ten 1-Gigabit Ethernet components. The 1-Gigabit Ethernet signal whose destination is the gigabit Ethernet router **102X** is then transmitted to the gigabit Ethernet router **102X**.

As will be apparent to a person skilled in the art, the links (**130** and **134**) to, and within, the optical transport network node **100** need not be DWDM, as any wavelength division multiplexing format would suffice.

Other modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art and, therefore, the invention is defined in the claims.

We claim:

1. A method of operating a data communication apparatus comprising:

at each of a plurality of service specific transceivers:

receiving a plurality of input signals from a given plurality of data communications devices operating with a given data communication protocol; aggregating each of said received plurality of input signals to result in a given service specific electrical signal; transmitting said given service specific electrical signal to a wavelength access controller;

at said wavelength access controller:

receiving a plurality of service specific electrical signals from a plurality of service specific transceivers, at least two of said service specific transceivers operating with different data communication protocols; converting said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a corresponding plurality of service specific optical signals; wavelength division multiplexing said plurality of service specific optical signals to result in a wavelength division multiplexed signal; and transmitting said wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical conductor to an element of an optical transport network.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising, at said wavelength access controller, classifying each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining, at said wavelength access controller, a database of information relating to resources in said optical transport network.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said resources comprise wavelength channels between elements in said optical transport network.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising

receiving a connection request from one of said plurality of service specific transceivers;

determining, based on said information in said database, a path through said transport network corresponding to said connection request; and

instructing said element of said optical transport network to set up said determined path through said transport network.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising, before said converting, including header information in each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals.

7. Data communication apparatus, comprising:

a first transceiver for:

receiving a plurality of input signals from a first plurality of data communications devices operating with a first data communication protocol;

aggregating each of said received plurality of input signals to result in a first service specific electrical signal;

transmitting said first service specific electrical signal to a wavelength access controller;

a wavelength access controller for:

receiving a plurality of service specific electrical signals from a plurality of service specific transceivers, at least two of said service specific transceivers operating with different data communication protocols;

13 converting said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a  
14 corresponding plurality of service specific optical signals;  
15 wavelength division multiplexing said plurality of service specific optical  
16 signals to result in a wavelength division multiplexed signal; and  
17 transmitting said wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical  
18 conductor to an element of an optical transport network.

1 8. Data communication apparatus, comprising:

2 a first transceiver comprising:

3 means for receiving a plurality of input signals from a first plurality of data  
4 communications devices operating with a first data communication protocol;  
5 means for aggregating each of said received plurality of input signals to result  
6 in a first service specific electrical signal;  
7 means for transmitting said first service specific electrical signal to a  
8 wavelength access controller;

9 a wavelength access controller comprising:

10 means for receiving a plurality of service specific electrical signals from a  
11 plurality of service specific transceivers, at least two of said service specific  
12 transceivers operating with different data communication protocols;  
13 means for converting said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a  
14 corresponding plurality of service specific optical signals;  
15 means for wavelength division multiplexing said plurality of service specific  
16 optical signals to result in a wavelength division multiplexed signal; and  
17 means for transmitting said wavelength division multiplexed signal over an  
18 optical conductor to an element of an optical transport network.



9. A computer readable medium for providing program control for a wavelength access controller in a wavelength access server, where said wavelength access server is communicatively coupled to both a plurality of service specific data communications devices and an element of an optical transport network, and said wavelength access controller is communicatively coupled to a plurality of service specific transceivers, said computer readable medium adapting said wavelength access controller to be operable to:

classify a service specific electrical signal from each of said plurality of service specific transceivers;

maintain a database of information relating to resources in said optical transport network;

receive a connection request, from one of said plurality of service specific transceivers, for a path through said transport network;

determine, based on said information in said database, a path through said transport network corresponding to said connection request; and

signal said element of said optical transport network to set up said determined path through said transport network.

10. A method of operating a data communication apparatus comprising:

at a wavelength access controller:

receiving a wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical conductor from an element of an optical transport network;

wavelength division de-multiplexing said wavelength division multiplexed signal to result in a plurality of service specific optical signals;

converting said plurality of service specific optical signals to a corresponding plurality of service specific electrical signals;

determining which of a plurality of service specific transceivers correspond to each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals;

11 transmitting each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a  
12 determined corresponding service specific transceiver;  
13 at each of said plurality of service specific transceivers:  
14 receiving a given service specific electrical signal from said wavelength access  
15 controller;  
16 segmenting said given service specific electrical signal to result in a plurality  
17 of output signals; and  
18 transmitting each of said plurality of output signals to a corresponding data  
19 communications device.

1 11. A data communication apparatus comprising:

2 a wavelength access controller comprising:

3 means for receiving a wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical  
4 conductor from an element of an optical transport network;

5 means for wavelength division de-multiplexing said wavelength division  
6 multiplexed signal to result in a plurality of service specific optical signals;

7 means for converting said plurality of service specific optical signals to a  
8 corresponding plurality of service specific electrical signals;

9 means for determining which of a plurality of service specific transceivers  
10 correspond to each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals;

11 means for transmitting each of said plurality of service specific electrical  
12 signals to a determined corresponding service specific transceiver;

13 at each of said plurality of service specific transceivers:

14 means for receiving a given service specific electrical signal from said  
15 wavelength access controller;

means for segmenting said given service specific electrical signal to result in a plurality of output signals; and

means for transmitting each of said plurality of output signals to a corresponding data communications device.

12. A data communication apparatus comprising:

a wavelength access controller for:

receiving a wavelength division multiplexed signal over an optical conductor from an element of an optical transport network;

wavelength division de-multiplexing said wavelength division multiplexed signal to result in a plurality of service specific optical signals;

converting said plurality of service specific optical signals to a corresponding plurality of service specific electrical signals;

determining which of a plurality of service specific transceivers correspond to each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals;

transmitting each of said plurality of service specific electrical signals to a determined corresponding service specific transceiver;

a service specific transceiver for:

receiving a given service specific electrical signal from said wavelength access controller;

segmenting said given service specific electrical signal to result in a plurality of output signals; and

transmitting each of said plurality of output signals to a corresponding data communications device.

## ABSTRACT

A wavelength access server (WAS) architecture provides aggregation of traffic streams of diverse data communication protocols as well as provision of wavelength resources in an optical transport network. The WAS provides functions such as service traffic adaptation, traffic aggregation and segmentation, traffic classification, optical inter-working and system management. In particular, system management includes aspects such as signaling, connection management, resource co-ordination, protection prioritization and access policy management.

5

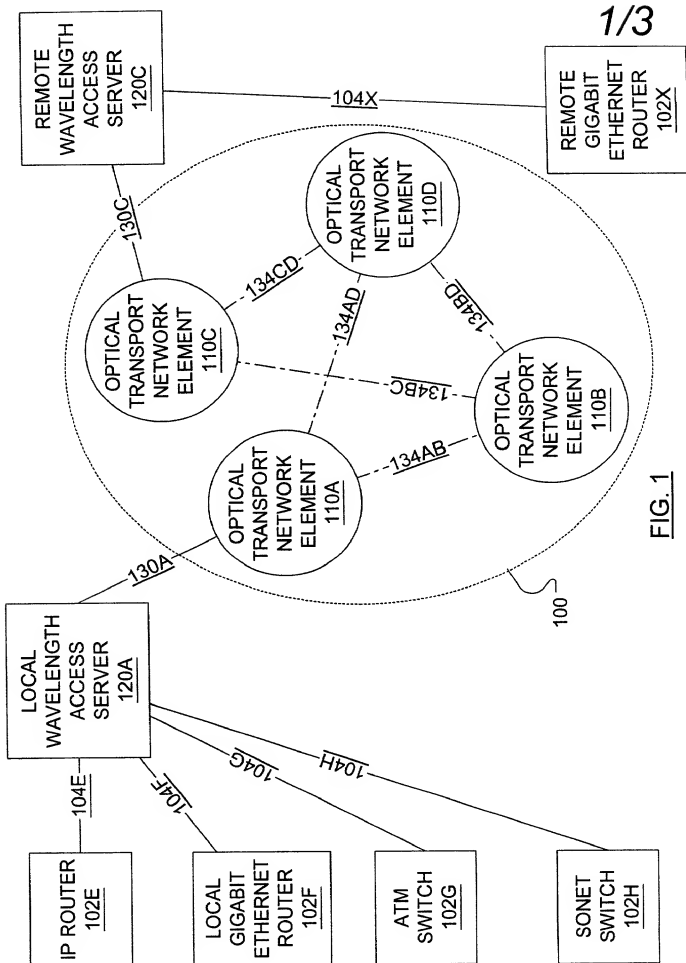


FIG. 1

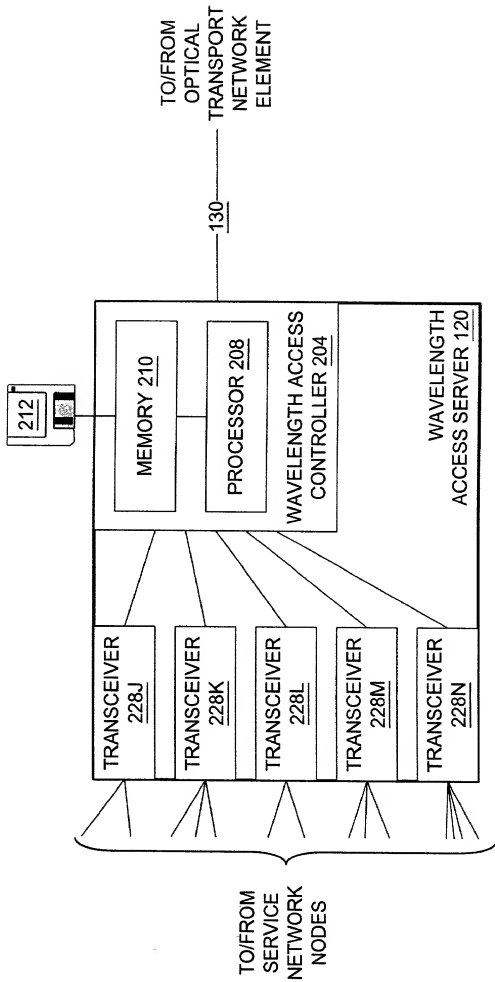
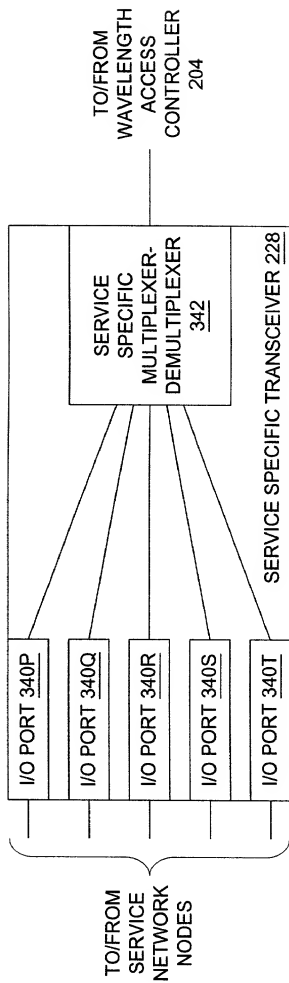


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

WAVELENGTH ACCESS SERVER (WAS) ARCHITECTURE

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_

as U.S. Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_

as PCT International Application No. PCT / \_\_\_\_\_.

and (if applicable) was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §§ 1.56(a) and (b), which state:

"(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practised or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application,
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.



- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
  - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability."

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 United States Code, § 119 and/or § 365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Filing Date</u> <u>(Day/Month/Year)</u>	<u>Date First</u> <u>Laid-open or</u> <u>Published</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Patented</u> <u>or Granted</u>	<u>Priority</u> <u>Claimed?</u>
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none

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
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none

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATION(S)

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u> <i>(day/month/year)</i>	<u>Status</u> <i>(pending, abandoned, granted)</i>
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none

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge

that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following patent agents with full power of substitution, association and revocation to prosecute this application and/or international application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

JOHN R. MORRISSEY (Reg. No. 28585)  
KELTIE R. SIM (Reg. No. 34535)  
ALISTAIR G. SIMPSON (Reg. No. 37040)  
MATTHEW ZISCHKA (Reg. No. 41575)

GUNARS GAIKIS (Reg. No. 32811)  
RONALD D. FAGGETTER (Reg. No. 33345)  
YOON KANG (Reg. No. 40386)  
YWE LOOPER (Reg. No. 43758)

PLEASE SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

SMART & BIGGAR  
438 University Avenue  
Suite 1500, Box 111  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2K8 CANADA

Attention: Ronald D. Faggetter

Telephone: (416) 593-5514  
Facsimile: (416) 591-1690

1) INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: G. Q. Wang Date: June 24, 2000

Inventor's Name: Guo-Qiang Q. Wang  
(First) (Middle Initial) (Family Name)

Country of Citizenship: Canada

Residence: Nepean, Ontario, Canada  
(City, Province, Country)

Post Office Address: 175 233 Longshore Circle, Nepean, Ontario, K2J 4K8, Canada

K2J 4K8

2) INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: K. E. Felske Date: 6.124/00

Inventor's Name: Kent E. Felske  
(First) (Middle Initial) (Family Name)

Country of Citizenship: Canada

Residence: Kanata, Ontario, Canada  
(City, Province, Country)

Post Office Address: 99 Shearer Cres., Kanata, Ontario, K2L 3V6, Canada

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